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Reviews.

*A Monograph of Lichens.**—Probably the first thought that suggests itself to the student on perusing this book is, Why was it ever published? It certainly is to be regretted that any one should at this time make such efforts to darken a field of learning that is so much in need of light as lichenology. Part I. of the work has made its appearance. The author has attempted to classify the British Museum material. This in itself was certainly a commendable undertaking, nor can any very serious objections be raised against the system of classification adopted, which is essentially that of Nylander; but no one can now be excused for refusing to recognize the true nature of the lichen structure. The author recognizes the algæ of lichens as "gonidia" of older authors, and groups them into three kinds, "gonidia, gonidimia" and "gonimia." Gonidia are defined as "the green cells of the thallus;" gonidimia as "green cells smaller than gonidia and with the cell wall less distinct;" gonimia, "bluish-green naked granules."

One would naturally conclude that an English scholar would or could understand and use the English language, but such does not seem to be the case. To illustrate, I will cite a few more definitions, before criticising the general phraseology of the body of the work. "Applicate" is defined as "forming the thalline border in many crustaceous lichens." "Evanescent—Reduced to mere gonidia scattered over the substratum;" "Nuclear—Roundish with an apical pore." These definitions become somewhat intelligible after a careful reading of the text. The author's peculiar Latino-Anglo-phraseology was no doubt the result of a long continued study of Nylander's classical works on lichens. Here is a sample. Of *Collema leptogiella* he says: "Thallus effuse, thin, minutely subcoralloideo-furfuraceous, olive-brown, apothecia leptogioid, minute, lurid-testaceous, slightly margined, the epithecium somewhat impressed or at length subplane; spores ellipsoid or oblongoellipsoid, 0.010–17 mm. long, 0.005–7 mm. thick; paraphyses slender, or somewhat slender, thicker at the apices; hymenial gelatine tawny, wine-reddish with iodine." This certainly is a mixture and thus it continues through the entire book.

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* A Monograph of Lichens found in Britain: being a descriptive Catalogue of the species in the Herbarium of the British Museum, by the Rev. James M. Crombie, M. A., F. L. S., F. G. S., etc. London, 1894.

The figures are fairly good from an artistic point of view, but unfortunately various lichen structures are incorrectly named. The algæ are, of course, never rightly named. In *Nephromium lævigatum* he has evidently designated as "sterigmata" and "spermatia" the hyphal cells surrounding the algal groups. There is one redeeming feature in the author's work, and that is the faithful application of chemical tests to, I believe, every species of lichen examined; and by this feature alone the work may perhaps live. The tests are simple and easy of application. They are essential to a more reliable method of determining species.

ALBERT SCHNEIDER.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

Flora of the outlying Carboniferous Basins of Southwestern Missouri. David White (Bull. 98, U. S. Geol. Surv. Pamph. pp. 139, *pl. 1–5*. Washington, 1893).

This flora is of special interest biologically in view of the fact that it must have grown at an altitude several hundred feet above the old marshes which now constitute the coal fields of northern Missouri and eastern Kansas. It represents essentially an upland flora as compared with that of the semi-inundated areas mentioned. It is particularly characterized by the presence of Neuropterid ferns and the leaves of *Cordaites.*

Neuropteris Jenneyi, N. caudata, Sphenopteris Lacoei and Pecopteris (Asterotheca) Lesquereuxii are described and figured as new species.

Each species described is accompanied by a complete synonomy and bibliography, arranged in chronological sequence, followed by critical notes on relationship, etc. From a study of the distribution of the species determined the author concludes that the plant-bearing beds belong to the Lower Coal-measures, and from their occurrence, in small basins in eroded limestone, the approximate age of the lead and zinc ores occurring in the limestone is estimated. Inasmuch as the palæobotanist is often criticised by the botanist for publishing descriptions founded upon material which the latter considers fragmentary and defective, the following paragraph from the work is quoted in order to show the point of view of the former: "Any impression that possesses a character which marks it as different from all other impressions and as peculiar to a horizon or series merits a characterization sufficient for its complete distinction; for its value in identifying that horizon within certain limits is equally important, whether it be a good species to the eye of the systematic biologist, or only the track of an otherwise unknown organism." In other words, accuracy of description and location is the first essential. Systematic position is only incidental; and to those who appreciate the value of palæobotany in the correlation of strata and the determination of geological horizons this statement of the case appeals most forcibly.

A. H.

A New Ilysanthes.—While botanizing in the lowlands of southern Missouri this summer, my attention was attracted by a form of *Ilysanthes* that appears to have escaped the notice of botanists generally. It was so unlike anything I had ever seen that I was constrained to observe it more closely at the different localities I collected in, and I found that it is the prevailing form of southeastern Missouri; at least I observed it in Dunklin, New Madrid, Stoddard, Scott and Cape Girardeau counties. In aspect it is the exact opposite of *I. gratioloides*, and may be characterized as follows:

Decumbent, low and spreading bushy annual; leaves round-ovate or oblong-ovate, thinnish, very veiny, serrate, or often coarsely dentate, all of them petioled, the lower quite long-petioled; pedicels thickish, less than 12 mm. long, and much shorter than the leaves, and commonly two or three in the axils: flowers about 3 mm. long; capsule small, acuminate at apex; calyx-lobes setaceous, much longer than the capsules.

Although there seem to be sufficient characters present to maintain this as a species, for the present it may be designated as ILYSANTHES GRATIOLOIDES CURTIPEDICELLATA.

Differs from *I. gratioloides* mainly in having larger thin leaves which are petioled, shorter pedicels, longer calyx lobes, several pedicels in the axils, decumbent habit and in being slightly scabrous. *I. gratioloides* is usually strictly upright, with sessile, mostly entire leaves, the lower usually connate, pedicels solitary, filiform and much exceeding the leaves, sometimes even 36 mm. long, and has calyx lobes shorter than the capsules. B. F. BUSH.

INDEPENDENCE, MO.

Proceedings of the Club.

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 9TH, 1894.

Dr. Britton presiding and 26 persons present.

The following were elected active members; Miss Mary Foster, New York City; Miss Luella A. Palmer, New York City; Miss L. K. Lawall, New York City; Mr. Paul Schoeder, Hoboken, New Jersey; Mr. Edw. W. Berry, Passaic, New Jersey.

Prof. Dr. Alfred Cogniaux of Verviers, Belgium, was elected an honorary member.

The Committee on Coöperation of the Scientific Alliance with the Brooklyn Institute, for entertaining the A. A. A. S. at its Brooklyn meeting, reported that the Local Committee of Arrangements had requested that no demonstration be made in this city, but that all unite in making a success of the undertakings in Brooklyn, and that this request had been complied with.

It was unanimously resolved that the Curators request the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York to permit the local herbarium of the Club to be deposited in the herbarium room of the new College of Pharmacy building, and to allow the members of the Club access thereto, the College in return being permitted to use the Club herbarium.

The Secretary reported a request from Prof. Dr. Rees of Erlangen for specimens of American plants in the families Scrophulariaceæ, Gentianaceæ, Plantaginaceæ and Liliaceæ, which Prof. Rees is engaged in monographing, and announced that he would forward to Prof. Rees any such specimens which might be sent to him.

Dr. Britton announced the death of Mrs. Maria L. Daly, and eulogized the high services which she had rendered the cause of